

**USEPA
COMMUNITY ACTION FOR A RENEWED ENVIRONMENT (CARE)
PROGRAM – Level I Grant
EPA-OAR-IO-08-02**

The CARE program is designed to help communities reduce toxics in their environment and solve environmental problems that affect the health and/or the environment of the people who live and/or work in the community. The key to the CARE process is the community partnership. One of our goals is to work in partnership with the funded entity to create a self-sustaining, community-based partnership that will continue to improve the local environment, even after the CARE cooperative agreement ends. The community-based partnership needs to include representative from all three different “sides” in a community: residents, local businesses, and local government. All three sides must work together to allow a true community-wide consensus to be created and for sustainable solutions. These members work together to get information about environmental risks, disseminate that information out to the community, collect feedback, and use a consensus-based process to make decisions.

Level I CARE Funding

The goal of Level I projects is to ensure, at completion, that the community has developed an effective problem solving partnership, has an understanding of toxic risks facing the community, and has reached consensus in prioritizing those risks. CARE Level I cooperative agreement funding will:

- Provide assistance to applicants to create, develop and or sustain a collaborative partnership dedicated to understanding toxic risks and environmental pollutant impacts in their community. Community partnerships should be as inclusive as possible including community residents, representatives of community organizations, small and large businesses, state, tribal, local government agencies, EPA and other federal agencies, colleges and universities, and other organizations and individuals as appropriate.
- Build local capacity and organizations (e.g. using the funds to develop local leaders, hold leadership-building workshops, build local networks that have long-term sustainability, build local environmental coalitions that can aid local environmental agencies, and environmental solution implementation.)
- Assist broad-based partnerships, with technical support from EPA, states, and other partners;
- Identify all sources of toxics and environmental pollutants in the community, perform a multimedia screening level assessment of the risks from them, and work to help determine community priorities for risk reduction.